

Arthur Edward Waite

Arthur Edward Waite (October 2, 1857 - May 19, 1942) was an occultist and co-creator of the popular and widely used Rider-Waite Tarot deck and author of its companion volume, the Pictorial Key to the Tarot. This was notable for being one of the first decks to illustrate all 78 cards fully, as opposed to the 22 major arcana.

Waite was a prolific author with many of his works being well received in academic circles. He wrote occult texts on subjects including divination, Rosicrucianism, freemasonry, black and ceremonial magic, Kabbalism and alchemy; he also translated and reissued several important mystical and alchemical works. His works on the Holy Grail, influenced by his friendship with Arthur Machen, were particularly notable. A number of his volumes remain in print, *The Book of Ceremonial Magic*, *The Holy Kabbalah*, and *New Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* having seen reprints in recent years.